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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

MEETING WITH GRAHAM A. MARTIN,
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Friday, September 13, 1974
11:30 a.m. (15 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger HK

I. PURPOSE

To demonstrate your interest in Vietnam and to convey to President Thieu a message of support.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: Recent Congressional cuts in U.S. assistance to South Vietnam undermine South Vietnamese confidence in continued U.S. support and in South Vietnam's ability to resist Communist pressures. Your meeting with Ambassador Martin and your conveying through him assurances of our support to President Thieu can help bolster South Vietnamese confidence at a critical time. Ambassador Martin will want to express his own concerns about inadequate aid levels; the need to minimize Defense charges against military assistance to Vietnam; and the necessity of an energetic campaign to inform the Congress about Vietnam.

B. Participants: Graham Martin and Secretary Kissinger.

C. Press Arrangements: Press photo session. Meeting to be announced.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBK, NARA, Date 2/10/00

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III. TALKING POINTS

1. Recent Congressional cuts in Vietnam aid levels must be discouraging to the South Vietnamese.

2. Please give President Thieu my personal assurance that this Administration will do everything possible to provide adequate military and economic assistance to his country.

3. I met with Congressional leaders yesterday morning, and I am confident that they fully understand the importance I attach to meeting our commitments in Vietnam.

4. We will be working closely with Congress in the coming months to get the best possible bills.

5. How do you assess the present situation in Vietnam? What are your main problems there?

6. I understand that you have recently met with a number of people on the Hill, as well as with newsmen and civic leaders. Based on your impressions this trip, what additional things can we do here to help you in Saigon?

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